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# Contra Costa County

# 1978 Annual Report

Contra Costa County - Politics and Govt

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# Contra Costa County
# California

1978

***An Annual Report from***

Arthur G. Will
County Administrator (1978)

M. G. Wingett
County Administrator (1979)

651 Pine Street
Martinez, California 94553
(415) 372-4080

## Supervisorial Districts

## County Board of Supervisors

***District 1***

*Tom Powers* 231-3231
100 - 37th Street
Richmond, CA 94805

***District 2***

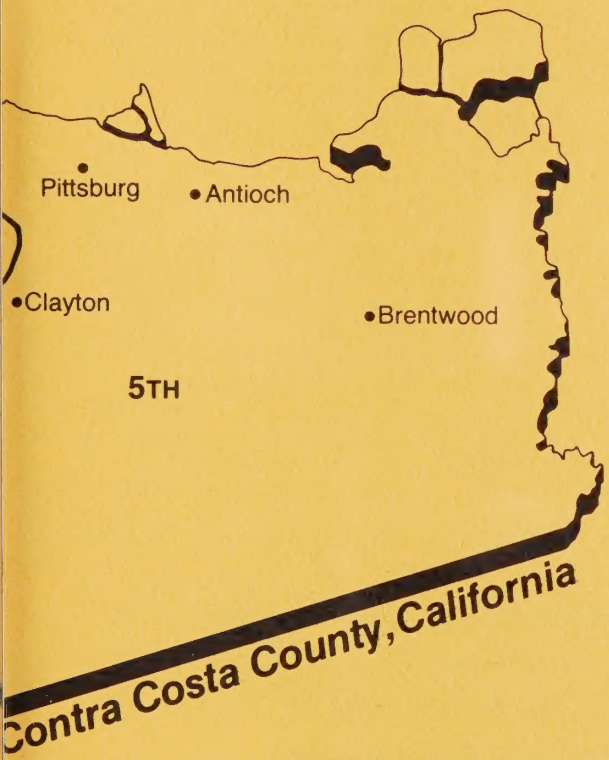
*Nancy C. Fahden* 372-2080
805 Las Juntas
Martinez, CA 94553

4300 Garden Road (Fridays)
El Sobrante, CA 94803 222-2822

***District 3***

*Robert I. Schroder* 284-4733
(Chairman, 1978)
3338 Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Lafayette, CA 94549

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS




***District 4***

*Sunne Wright McPeak* 687-8663
1331 Concord Avenue
Concord, CA 94520

***District 5***

*Eric H. Hasseltine* 439-4138
(Chairman, 1979)
45 Civic Avenue and
Pittsburg, CA 94565 820-3742

120 S. Hartz Avenue
Danville, CA 94526

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*The County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building, 651 Pine Street, Martinez. All meetings are open to the public.*

## Your Local Government

Local government is provided in California by (1) counties, (2) cities, and (3) special service districts. All three obtain their authority from the state.

## County Government

Urbanization has brought far-reaching changes to America and to county government.

In 1776, counties performed limited services. They built roads, collected taxes, and recorded documents. But as America's economic and social structures have become more varied, federal and state governments have found it increasingly difficult to manage broad programs and still meet the needs of individual communities. On the other hand, cities and towns are finding it more difficult to cope with environmental and growth problems that spill beyond their boundaries.

Counties have gradually stepped in as the one form of government small enough to respond to grassroot needs but large enough to coordinate regional programs. County services have multiplied as they try to tackle national problems and challenges. New federally-funded programs in health, social services, employment, housing, and community development were given to the counties to administer. As a result, county revenues, budgets, and payrolls have mushroomed—they jumped more than 300% between 1963 and 1973.

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Now counties build airports and libraries; run schools, community centers, and elections; control floods and solid waste disposal; fight crime, pollution, disease, and drug abuse. They provide low-income housing, nutrition services, rehabilitation, and crop inspection. They give out welfare checks, food stamps, traffic tickets, and vaccinations.

Counties were first established in California to administer state laws at the local level. As legal subdivisions of the state, they are given the responsibility for such areas as the courts and law enforcement, health and sanitation, welfare and corrections, libraries, roads and bridges, flood control, and land use planning. County duties include appraising property values, levying and collecting taxes, administering elections, licensing, maintaining vital statistics, and a myriad of other governmental activities.

California's constitution of 1879 required the legislature to establish a uniform structure of government for counties. All counties were then governed by established general law, which led to the use of the name "general law county." The constitution was later amended to permit any county by vote of its residents to adopt a charter determining the structure of its government. The 11 counties which have adopted charters are termed "charter counties."

Contra Costa County is a general law county. A five-member board of supervisors is elected by districts which are roughly equal in population. The board controls and is responsible for most county affairs, within the limits of the state constitution and laws.

Also elected are the Municipal and Superior Court judges, the County Board of Education, and seven other county officials. Other officials, department heads, and commissions are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Their duties and powers are prescribed by law.

***Population***

| *Year* | *Population* | *% Change* |
|---|---|---|
| 1860 | 5,328 | |
| 1870 | 8,461 | 58.8 |
| 1880 | 12,625 | 49.2 |
| 1890 | 13,515 | 7.0 |
| 1900 | 18,046 | 33.5 |
| 1910 | 31,674 | 75.5 |
| 1920 | 53,889 | 70.1 |
| 1930 | 78,608 | 45.9 |
| 1940 | 100,450 | 27.8 |
| 1950 | 298,984 | 197.6 |
| 1960 | 409,030 | 36.8 |
| 1970 | 555,805 | 35.9 |
| 1975 | 582,829 | 4.9 |
| *1980 | 622,100 | 6.7 |

*estimate

### *History and Background*

Contra Costa County is one of 58 California counties. It was one of the original 27 counties established when California was admitted to the Union in 1849. The 1850 population count is recorded as being lost on the way to Washington, but it is estimated to have been under 2,000. Martinez was named the county seat and has remained so ever since.

The Spanish name Contra Costa means "opposite shore," referring to the fact that the county's western boundaries lay along the eastern shore of the bay opposite San Francisco. In 1853, however, much of that shoreline was lost to the county when the state legislature created Alameda County out of a large portion of Contra Costa County and a smaller portion of Santa Clara County.

When Acting Governor Pedro Fages and Fray Juan Crespi explored the Contra Costa area in 1772, they found lush valleys and peaceful Indian villages. Friendly Indians, singing and dancing, greeted the Juan Bautista de Anza expedition as it travelled through the area in 1776.

In the 1820's and 1830's ranchers settled here, under large land grants from the Spanish and, later, the Mexican governments. They brought herds of cattle, sheep, and horses and planted orchards and vineyards. When California was admitted to the Union, the ranchers began selling sections of their grants. Wheat fields, fruit and walnut orchards grew and prospered on the fertile land.

In the late 1800's the Port Costa area became the principal shipping point for grain from the Great Central Valley. Coal mining took place in the hills north of Mount Diablo.

Until 1900, Contra Costa remained mostly agricultural. The turn of the century brought industry, attracted by the availability of water transportation and the coming of the railroad. In 1900, the Santa Fe railroad made Richmond its western terminus. The following year, Standard Oil established its oil refinery there.

During World War I, Contra Costa shared heavily in the industrial development of the San Francisco Bay area. Migration into the central county swelled with the opening of the Caldecott Tunnel in 1937. Following the onset of World War II, industrial, business, and residential growth became explosive. Since then, the county has continued to be in the forefront of growth in the nine-county San Francisco Metropolitan Area.

Since 1970, the county's high rate of population growth has slowed. Both the birth rate and average family size are dropping. The proportion of children in the county's population is falling; the percentage of elderly and minorities is rising.

# COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The county has begun to evolve from a primarily suburban fringe area of the San Francisco Bay Area into a more complex and varied urban area. It has developed a more diversified economic base, as agricultural production continues to decline.

The county's 70-mile waterfront is of significant importance. Over half of the ocean shipping passing in and out of the Golden Gate is handled through Contra Costa ports. This shoreline is the site of major oil refineries, Northern California's largest steel mill, chemical plants, food plants, and a growing roster of all types of industry, both light and heavy. These industries are served by two transcontinental railways and a network of state and national highways.

The wide valley drained by the Walnut and San Ramon creeks extends through the heart of the county. Because of its beauty and fog-free summers, it has become a large and expanding suburban residential area. Slightly more than half the county's population now lives in the central county. Only one-third lives in the west county.

The eastern portion of the county beyond Pittsburg and Antioch continues as an important agricultural area, part of the famous Delta region of the Central Valley. Along its many waterways are boating and fishing resorts.

Because it stands alone, Mount Diablo dominates Contra Costa County. It is the triangulation point in the West for the U.S. Geodetic Survey. From the top of this 3,900-foot mountain, one can see not only most of the 732.6 square miles of the county's hills and valleys and waterways, but over 40,000 square miles of the earth's surface—possibly more, say some geographers, than is visible from any other spot on the globe.

Contra Costa County is the ninth smallest county in land area of the 58 counties (732.6 square miles land, 73.3 square miles water). It is the ninth largest in population (582,829 in the 1975 census).

## City Government

There are fifteen cities in Contra Costa County. These municipalities were formed to provide certain services not furnished by the County or to provide a higher level of available county services. Such additional or augmented services include police protection, fire protection, street maintenance and improvement, traffic control, licensing, recreation, planning and zoning, and the establishment of building regulations within their boundaries.

Each city is run by a council elected from within the corporate limits of the city.

Although cities have their own municipal governments, they remain within the county. Basic county services are provided to all county residents, whether they live in a city or in an unincorporated area.

Cities often contract with the County for certain services, such as law enforcement, animal control, road maintenance, and building inspection.

### *Incorporated Cities*

*Antioch* 757-3333
- Area ..... 8.5 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 33,215
- Form of Government ... Council Manager

*Brentwood* 634-3505
- Area ..... 1.5 square mile
- 1975 Population ..... 3,662
- Form of Government ... Council-Administrator

*Clayton* 689-3622
- Area ..... 1.1 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 1,790
- Form of Government ... Council

*Concord* 671-3000
- Area ..... 30 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 94,673
- Form of Government ... Council-Manager

*El Cerrito* 234-2323
- Area ..... 3.6 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 22,950
- Form of Government ... Council-Manager

*Hercules* 758-3081
- Area ..... 4.2 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 121
- Form of Government ... Council

*Lafayette* 284-1968
- Area ..... 12.9 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 19,628
- Form of Government ... Council-Manager

*Martinez* 228-4400
- Area ..... 9 square miles
- 1975 Population ..... 18,702
- Form of Government ... Council-Manager

| | |
|---|---|
| *Moraga* | 376-5200 |
| Area | 9.5 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 14,418 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |
| *Pinole* | 758-3012 |
| Area | 4 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 15,337 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |
| *Pittsburg* | 439-8242 |
| Area | 10.4 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 24,347 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |
| *Pleasant Hill* | 934-6050 |
| Area | 6.5 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 25,398 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |
| *Richmond* | 232-1212 |
| Area | 32 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 70,126 |
| Form of Government | Charter-Council-Manager |
| *San Pablo* | 234-6440 |
| Area | 2.6 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 19,392 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |
| *Walnut Creek* | 935-3300 |
| Area | 16 square miles |
| 1975 Population | 46,034 |
| Form of Government | Council-Manager |

## Special Districts

Special districts provide a particular service to a specifici area or group of citizens, initiated by petition of voters living in that area. These services are paid for by those who use the service directly, through individual tax levies. These monies are not reflected in the general county property tax rate.

The following special districts and service areas—a total of 68—are under the control of the Board of Supervisors, which serves ex-officio as the governing body:

### *Districts and Service Areas Governed by the Board of Supervisors*

| *Districts Governed by Board of Supervisors* | | *Service Areas Governed by Board of Supervisors* | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Co. Sanitation | 4 | Drainage | 5 |
| Fire Protection | 13 | Fire | 1 |
| Flood Control | 1 | Street Lighting | 4 |
| Storm Drain Maintenance | 2 | Library Construction | 5 |
| Storm Drainage | 1 | Police | 4 |
| Water Agency | 1 | Recreation & Parks | 6 |
| | 22 | Road Maintenance | 1 |
| | | Miscellaneous | 20 |
| | | | 46 |

There are also 50 independent special districts. Most independent districts are for a single purpose, such as fire, sewage treatment, or parks. Each of these districts is politically autonomous, governed by independently elected officials.

***Districts Governed by Local Boards***

| | |
|---|---|
| Community Services | 2 |
| County Sanitation | 1 |
| County Water | 3 |
| Fire Protection | 4 |
| Irrigation | 2 |
| Local Hospital | 3 |
| Mosquito Abatement | 2 |
| Municipal Improvement | 1 |
| Public Cemetery | 2 |
| Reclamation | 10 |
| Recreation & Park | 5 |
| Resource Conservation | 1 |
| Sanitary | 8 |
| Inter-County Districts | 6 |
| | 50 |

***School Districts***

More than half of all the property taxes collected in Contra Costa County are distributed to 19 school districts, all of which are governed by independently elected school boards.

These boards determine policy for the operation of the schools; enforce the course of study and compliance with laws and regulations; employ teachers and other personnel; and are responsible for the construction, maintenance, and operation of school buildings and equipment.

*School Districts Governed by Independent Boards*

| | |
|---|---|
| Community College | 1 |
| High School | 2 |
| Unified | 7 |
| Elementary | 9 |
| | 19 |

## The Budget

It is not generally known by the public that many of the services and programs operated by the county government are required by state and federal law. In some cases, such as the courts operation or welfare programs, the level of service is also mandated. Counties must abide by the rules and regulations established for mandated programs by the state and federal government. Boards of supervisors have discretion over a small portion of such expenditures, which limits their ability to control the budget.

The county is required by law to operate various public assistance (welfare) programs locally and to pay part -approximately 25%—of the expenses with local property tax dollars. Other major mandated programs include most of the operations of the sheriff-coroner, district attorney-public administrator, county clerk-recorder, the courts and marshals; and many of the services of the offices of the assessor and the treasurer-tax collector. A large percentage of the county's activities in the areas of health, medical services, probation, and rehabilitation also are required.

### *The Budget Process*

Probably the most important action taken by the Board of Supervisors each year is the adoption of a budget which provides a financial plan, including anticipated revenues and expenditures, for the operation of county departments and agencies during a fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.

During the year, county departments prepare their budget needs and requests. The requests are reviewed and analyzed by the office of the county administrator. The administrator prepares a proposed budget for board consideration, based on public needs and funds available to pay for the service.

The Board of Supervisors' Finance Committee meets with all department heads and holds public meetings to review their budgets. The committee makes a recommendation to the whole board in August, at which time the board holds public hearings. The budget is adopted by August 30.

During the fiscal or budget year, the administrator's staff and departmental finance officers continue to monitor spending.

### *Growth and Change in the County Budget*

In 1959-60, the total county budget was about $38 million. By 1974-75, fifteen years later, the budget was $189 million.

The greatest cause for this increase was the change in requirements and increased comprehensiveness of the Public Assistance expenditure category. It increased from $15 million in 1960 to over $79 million in 1974-75 and thus accounted for $4 of every $10 increase in the County budget. This increase was covered by a similar increase in the amount of revenue received from other governmental agencies.

In 1977-78, the basic county tax rate for county government services was $2.36 per $100 of assessed valuation, and the overall average rate was $11.173 per $100 countywide (including cities, special districts and school districts). The overall rate ranged from a low of $6.728 in Crockett/Rodeo to a high of $14.013 in Pittsburg.

Proposition 13, passed by California voters in June 1978, now requires a countywide tax rate of $4 per $100 assessed valuation, which is divided among the county, cities, special districts and school districts. In addition to this, the taxpayer is billed for bond debts previously approved by voters and for special fees such as sewer service charges.

Because the $4 rate is considerably less than the previous rate, these government agencies asked and received financial help from the State of California to assist them with current service obligations while long-range adjustments to the reduced income could be made. One of the initial moves taken by many jurisdictions was to set fees and service charges to help pay for the cost of services which had not been self-sustaining.

## Estimated Revenues

There are seven major county revenue sources other than the property tax:

### *State and Federal Aid:*

This includes amounts received from the state and federal government primarily for welfare, health, community improvement, and employment and property tax relief programs.

### *Charges for Current Services:*

These revenues come from fees collected for various road and general services performed by the County.

### *Taxes Other than Current Property:*

Most of this revenue is the county share of sales and use taxes collected in the unincorporated area. The remainder is composed of penalties on delinquent taxes, a percentage of the sales tax collected in the cities, a real estate transfer tax, and business franchise taxes.

### *Use of Money and Property:*

All revenue not needed for the immediate operation of the County is invested, thus developing interest, which comprises most of the revenue in this category.

### *Fines, Forfeitures, and Penalties:*

Most of this revenue is generated by vehicle code and other court-imposed fines.

### *Licenses and Permits:*

This revenue is derived from the issuance of animal, marriage, and business licenses, plus the fees collected for building and zoning permits.

### *Other Revenue:*

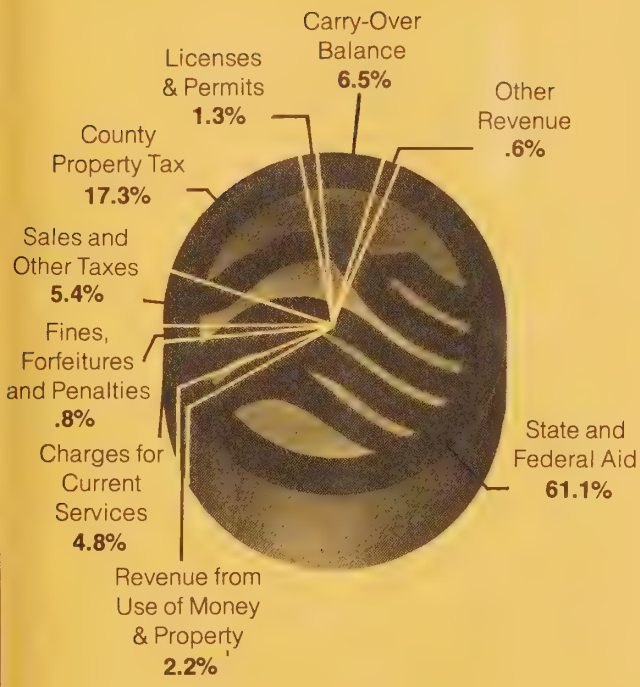
This is revenue applicable to prior years, including sale of items being replaced (mainly automobiles and trucks), the sale of maps and documents, insurance receipts, and miscellaneous small items.

### *Total County Revenue*

| *Source* | *1977-78* | *1978-79* |
|---|---|---|
| County Property Tax | $ 82,509,000 | $ 35,410,102 |
| State and Federal Aid | 114,268,000 | 124,951,341 |
| Charges for Current Serv. | 26,112,000 | 9,814,553 |
| Sales and Other Taxes | 6,713,000 | 10,978,600 |
| Revenue from Use of Money & Property | 3,098,000 | 4,500,260 |
| Fines, Forfeitures & Penalties | 1,646,000 | 1,732,280 |
| Licenses & Permits | 2,510,000 | 2,681,350 |
| Other Revenue | 629,000 | 1,247,900 |
| Carry-Over Balance | 12,971,000 | 13,261,582 |
| Total | $250,456,000 | $204,577,968 |

*includes state block grant ("bailout") assistance

**does not include money received for county medical services, which are placed in an enterprise fund.


Carry-Over Balance 6.5%
Licenses & Permits 1.3%
Other Revenue .6%
County Property Tax 17.3%
Sales and Other Taxes 5.4%
Fines, Forfeitures and Penalties .8%
State and Federal Aid 61.1%
Charges for Current Services 4.8%
Revenue from Use of Money & Property 2.2%

## County Expenditures

The various services and functions of county government are grouped in general areas for budgetary expenditure purposes.

***Public Assistance:***

Administration of the welfare program, caring for both crippled children and wards of the courts, and services to county veterans.

***Public Protection:***

The Court system, Clerk-Recorder, Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, Public Defender, Probation services, Jail, Department of Agriculture, Building Inspection, Planning, Animal Control, Flood Control, Civil Defense, and other services.

***Health and Sanitation:***

County contribution to medical services; and public health and sanitation services performed by the County Health and Public Works Departments.

***Public Works:***

Maintenance and construction of the county road system, deep water channels, and airport, as well as related public works administrative expenses.

***General and Administrative:***

General county government, including central administration, property assessment, tax collection, elections and other financial administration for county and special district operations. It also includes various management and maintenance and operation functions.

***Education:***

Operation of the County Library system and the County Department of Education.

***Debt Service:***

This function includes interest and principal expenses on county bonds.

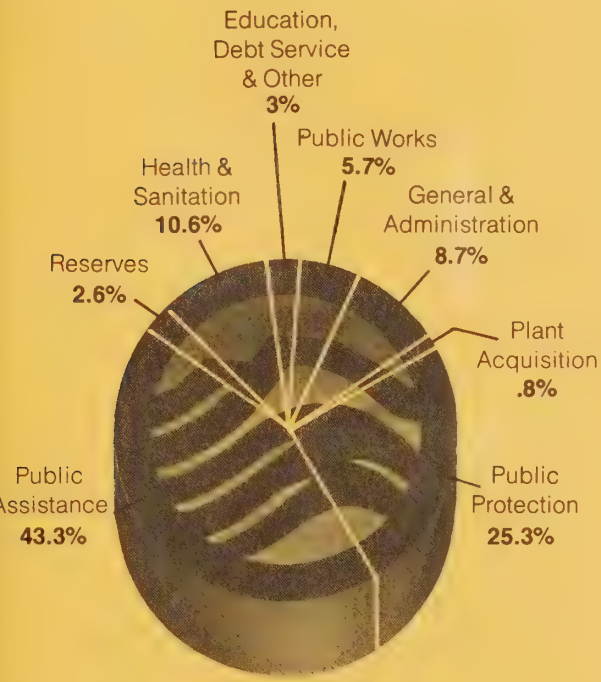
***Total County Expenditures***

| *Function* | *1977-78 Budget* | *1978-79 Budget* |
|---|---|---|
| Public Assistance | $108,720,000* | $ 88,549,060 |
| Public Protection | 48,365,000 | 51,709,608 |
| Health & Sanitation | 42,575,000 | 21,641,472 |
| Public Works | 16,263,000 | 11,745,543 |
| General Administration | 19,852,000 | 17,787,344 |
| Plant Aquisition | 2,020,000 | 1,558,000 |
| Education, Debt Service & Other | 6,549,000 | 6,146,752 |
| Reserves | 6,112,000 | 5,440,189 |
| Total | $250,456,000 | $204,577,968 |

*includes Medi-Cal and SSI/SSP contributions, now handled by the state as of fiscal year 1978-79.

**does not include that portion of the county hospital's enterprise fund which is reimbursed through patient payments for service.

***Total County Expenditures***



### *The Property Tax Dollar*

For convenience to the public and low-cost, efficient administration, the Treasurer-Tax Collector of Contra Costa County collects and the Auditor-Controller redistributes property taxes for cities, school districts and special districts, as well as for the county government. As a result, many citizens believe that the County is receiving all of their property tax dollar. In fact, the County receives less than one-fourth of the total property tax levy.

The distribution of the average property tax dollar among the various jurisdictions in Contra Costa County is as follows:

### *Distribution of County Property Tax*

| | *1977-78* | *1978-79* |
|---|---|---|
| County | $ 84,201,064 | $ 36,422,53 |
| County Districts | 19,145,643 | 8,672,81 |
| Independent Districts | 46,175,341 | 30,233,15 |
| Schools | 198,655,867 | 94,644,28 |
| Cities | 31,496,953 | 14,349,16 |
| | $379,674,868 | $184,321,95 |

### *Tax Requirements Per Capita*

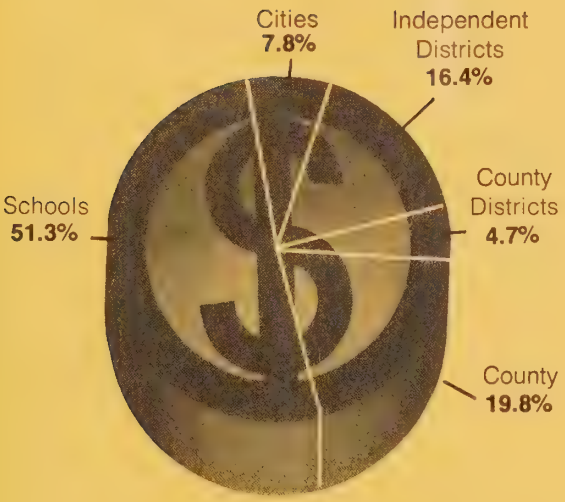
| *Year* | *Population* | *Needed Co. Taxes* | *$/Capita* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1949–50 | 298,984 | $ 7,296,123 | $ 24.40 |
| 1954–55 | 336,900 | 12,391,105 | 36.77 |
| 1959–60 | 409,030 | 19,253,293 | 47.07 |
| 1964–65 | 486,860 | 27,726,702 | 56.95 |
| 1969–70 | 555,805 | 48,258,627 | 86.83 |
| 1974–75 | 582,829 | 69,516,576 | 119.27 |

### *Assessed Valuation Per Capita*

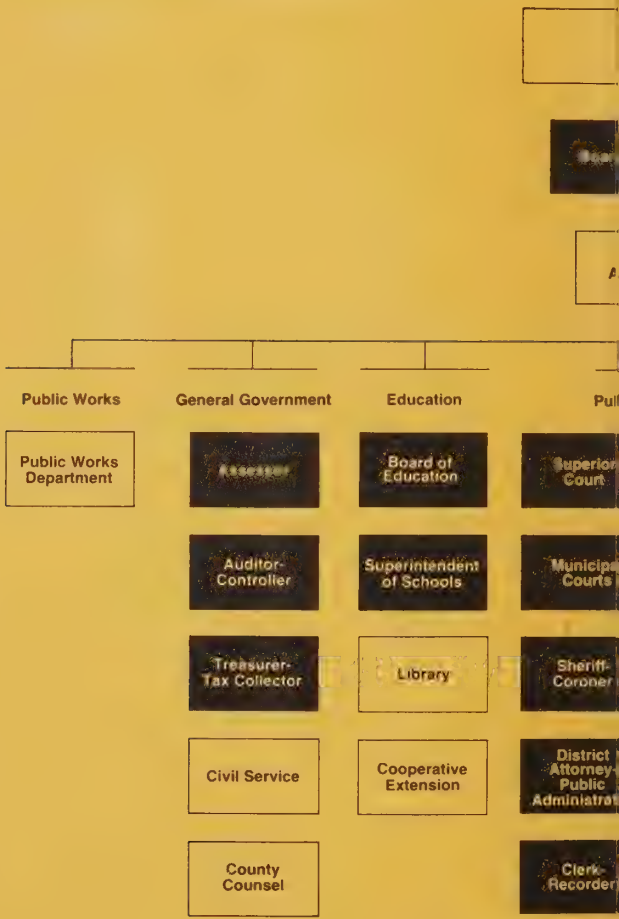
| *Years* | *Population* | *Valuation* | *Av per Capita* |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1950–51 | 298,984 | $ 303,056,905 | $1013.62 |
| 1955–56 | 336,900 | 483,940,265 | 1436.45 |
| 1960–61 | 409,030 | 842,042,945 | 2058.63 |
| 1965–66 | 486,860 | 1,215,069,130 | 2495.73 |
| 1970–71 | 555,805 | 1,765,219,599 (a) | 3175.97 |
| 1975–76 | 582,829 | 3,197,684,666 (a) | 5486.49 |

(a) Before homeowners and business inventory exemptions

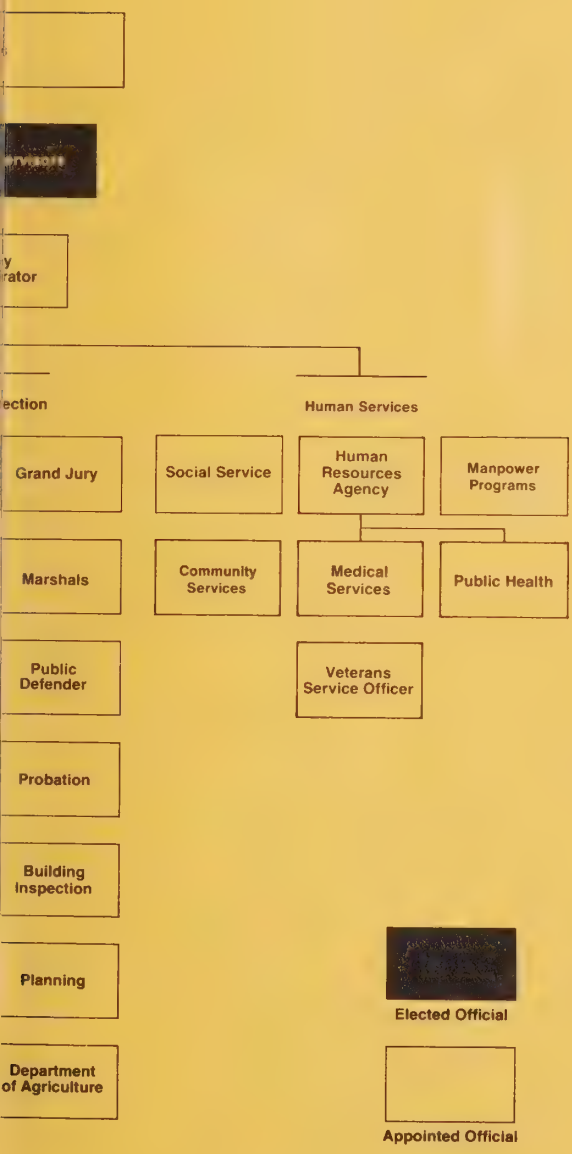
***Distribution of County Property Tax***



# Organization for County Government



# COUNTY DEPARTMENTS



### *The Board of Supervisors* *Budget: $402,832*

The Board of Supervisors is the governing body for Contra Costa County and many county special districts.

Each of the five members of the board is elected on a non-partisan basis to a four-year term. Their terms overlap: Districts 2, 3 and 5 elect their supervisors during presidential election years and districts 1 and 4 during state general election years. Board members begin their terms at the first meeting in January, at which time they choose a new chairman and vice-chairman.

The board has a status not unlike the board of directors of a large corporation in that it sets policies and depends on the county administrator, county officials, and department heads to carry out its wishes.

The board performs legislative, administrative, and appellate functions prescribed to it by the California state constitution and statutes.

Among its responsibilities are enacting ordinances and resolutions, approving formal contracts and agreements, setting employee salaries, adopting budgets, and levying taxes.

The board exercises its appellate powers primarily by holding hearings and deciding appeals from actions taken by administrative departments of the county government.

It must adopt an annual budget which provides for the entire cost of county government.

The board has control of the budget and manpower of the courts and departments headed by elected officials, but operational control lies with those officials: the assessor, auditor-controller, clerk-recorder, district attorney-public administrator, sheriff-coroner, superintendent of schools, and treasurer-tax collector.

County personnel are hired through a civil service system, but the board appoints the county administrator, certain department heads and members of many advisory boards and commissions.

The board is also the governing body of a variety of special districts and county service areas formed to provide such services as fire protection, lighting, recreation, and flood control. Other special districts are governed by independent boards elected by the people or appointed by the board.

The business of the board is conducted publicly each Tuesday in the Board Chambers of the County Administration Building in Martinez, the county seat. Public hearings are set at other times when special issues need to be aired.

Board meetings are only a part of the work of the members, who must attend dozens of other types of meetings, listen to suggestions and complaints of county residents, participate in a variety of civic activities, and investigate and resolve a wide assortment of problems. They are called on to meet with elected representatives and officials of other government agencies. And they serve on a variety of local, state, regional, and federal government boards, committees, and commissions dealing with inter-governmental problems and relations.

## Administration

### *County Administrator* — *Budget: $750,631*

The County Administrator is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and responsible to it. As the agent of the Board, this person directs and coordinates the work of the County departments and agencies.

The Administrator puts into action the policies, rules, and regulations adopted by the Board. He makes recommendations on County policies and procedures, prepares the recommended County budget, and establishes and enforces personnel policies and practices.

### *Civil Service* — *Budget: $1,323,465*

The Director of Personnel is appointed by the County Administrator and also serves as executive secretary to the Civil Service Commission. This department handles personnel services for the County and special districts, including recruiting, examining, and classifying jobs; labor relations; employee training and accident prevention; employee benefits; and affirmative action programs.

### *Office of Emergency Services* — *Budget: $222,039*

The OES is a division of the County Administrator's office. It coordinates the work of public and private agencies in preparing and training for disasters and major emergencies. The office maintains the County's emergency operations center and emergency services communications systems and serves as the focal point for emergency operations.

Other duties include: handling oil and hazardous chemical accidents, directing the countywide radiation safety program, maintaining the county's weather information system, acquiring surplus federal property and equipment, and offering public information and training in emergency and disaster-related subjects.

## General Government

***Assessor*** ***Budget: $4,229,916***

The Assessor is elected for a four-year term. This department determines the fair and equitable value of residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, and personal property for property tax purposes. (Public utilities are valued by the State Board of Equalization.)

On or before July 1 each year, the Assessor presents the assessment roll to the County Auditor-Controller. This roll, together with the utility roll, is a list of all property in the county which is subject to local property taxes. The County uses this information to figure the property taxes due.

***Auditor-Controller*** ***Budget: $2,784,464***

The Auditor-Controller is elected for a four-year term. This person is the chief fiscal officer of the County and of special districts and school districts.

The Auditor-Controller's office is a "watchdog" over the legality of expenditures and the proper handling of receipts. It prepares financial reports required by the state and conducts financial audits of the County's many diversified departments and special districts. It is also responsible for data processing, centralized purchasing and in-house reproduction services.

To assist with budget-making, the Auditor-Controller tabulates the County's revenues and its expenditures program and compiles the assessed valuation from the Assessor's rolls. He figures the tax rate for voter-approved debt service and apportions tax monies to the various funds, districts, and agencies. He computes the tax bills that are distributed by the Tax Collector.

***Treasurer-Tax Collector*** ***Budget: $1,097,449***

The Treasurer-Tax Collector is elected for a four-year term. The duty of this office is to receive, invest and maintain the cash flow for the County government and special districts. It collects property taxes and unsecured taxes for school districts, special districts and cities, as well as for the County government itself.

The Treasurer-Tax Collector's department also collects inheritance taxes, county license fees, and public health permits. It is the paying agent on municipal bonds and pays County warrants for supplies and services and the salaries of County and special district employees. It administers the County employees' retirement system and investment portfolio. It holds in trust money in the estates of persons who have died without making a will, until it is disbursed according to law.

### *County Counsel* — *Budget: $717,454*

The County Counsel is appointed by the Board of Supervisors and is the legal advisor for all County government officers, departments, commissions, and districts.

This office represents these officials in civil court actions and prepares ordinances, resolutions, bond elections, and other legal matters for them. The County Counsel attends all Board of Supervisors meetings, and deputy county counsels attend meetings of various commissions and governing bodies, to give legal advice and handle legal problems that arise.

## Education

### *Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education* — *Budget: $937,616*

The Superintendent of Schools is elected for a four-year term. This department provides business, administrative, and coordinating services to school districts. It operates a variety of educational programs for mentally and physically handicapped children and for youth in juvenile court schools. Serving as the link between the school districts and the State Department of Education, it keeps records, reviews budgets, processes credentials, and issues payroll and purchasing warrants.

The elected Board of Education is the policy-making body of the County Superintendent of Schools Office. It adopts a basic course of study for the county, administers special education programs, approves contracts and agreements with school districts and other agencies; and hears appeals on student expulsion and interdistrict attendance. As the County Committee on School District Organization, it can approve school district boundary changes.

### *County Library* — *Budget: $5,124,778*

The County Librarian is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This department provides library and information services to the whole county, with the exception of the city of Richmond. This includes the loaning of books, magazines, records, films, and tapes. It also assists county residents with individual reference and research; provides a bookmobile to areas without libraries; delivers books to the homebound; presents art exhibits, storyhours, lectures, and crafts programs; and offers the use of its facilities for community programs.

### *Cooperative Extension* — *County Share: $100,181*

Educational and advisory services in agriculture, home economics, and 4-H club work are provided by this department.

The University of California assigns professional advisors to provide information programs and literature about farm and family food production, nutrition, youth activities, pest control, and the environment. Federal and state funds assist in financing these services.

## Human Services

### *Human Resources Agency*

The director of this agency is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It has two major divisions:

#### *Medical Services* — *Budget: $36,873,751*

The Medical Services Department furnishes in-patient hospital services at the County Hospital in Martinez and out-patient services through clinics in Martinez, Richmond, Pittsburg, and Oakley. The department is unique in the county in providing specialized services for tuberculosis, alcohol and drug addiction, communicable diseases, premature births, psychiatric problems, mental retardation, and physical handicaps. It also operates various medical training programs.

#### *Health* — *Budget: $8,858,058*

The Health Department provides clinics for the prevention and detection of disease: immunizations, venereal disease treatment, TB tests and X-rays, Pap smears and breast examinations. It is responsible for inspecting food establishments, water supplies, public swimming pools, sewage disposal and garbage collection systems. It enforces solid waste and occupational health standards and assists with control of rodents and air, water, and noise pollution.

The department administers crippled children's services, health screening for children and senior citizens, bedside nursing and home care, emergency medical care, and the women and infants' food supplement program. Public health nurses and health educators conduct community health education programs.

#### *Social Service* — *Budget: $79,843,940*

The Social Service Department provides assistance to the poor, medically needy, and handicapped, to help them improve their circumstances and become independent. It supplies social services for the whole community, including adoption and foster care services; protective services to prevent abuse and neglect of children and adults; in-home care for the homebound; counseling for families with problems; and referrals to other service agencies.

#### *Manpower Programs* — *Budget: $6,615,100*

This department trains unemployed and underemployed persons and places them in jobs. It also handles public service employment programs. It is funded through the federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

#### *Community Services* — *Budget: $802,853*

This office administers programs for low-income families in areas such as information and referral, citizen participation, and services directed to youth and senior citizens. It is the local extension of the federal Community Services Administration, which provides its operating funds.

***Veterans Service Officer*** ***Budget: $133,947***

The Veterans Service Officer is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to assist veterans and their dependents in obtaining the benefits they are due under the law. This office helps them present claims for compensation and pensions and to apply for hospitalization, Veterans Administration insurance, and other benefits.

## Public Protection

***Courts and Marshals*** ***Budget: $6,859,645***

*Superior Court*

The Superior Court judges are elected to six-year terms on a staggered basis. They are in reality state officers who sit in the Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of Contra Costa.

This is the chief trial court, with jurisdiction in equity, probate, insanity, juvenile and felony cases, and in civil cases involving more than $5,000.

*Municipal Courts*

Municipal Court judges are elected to six-year terms. They conduct hearings for misdemeanor cases and for persons with traffic violations. These courts have jurisdiction in civil matters to $5,000. Each Municipal Court has a Marshal, who serves as bailiff and process server for that district.

*Grand Jury*

This body of 19 electors, selected by the Superior Court, hears evidence against non-charged persons suspected of crime and decides if they are to be brought to trial. It also probes the need for improved local government operations and investigates public officers suspected of misconduct of office. The Grand Jury presents a report at the end of its year-long term, detailing the investigations and suggestions of its committees.

*Superior Court Administrator-Jury Commissioner*

This person is appointed by the judges of the Superior Court to organize and administer the non-judicial activities of the Superior Court; manage the court calendar; help prepare and administer the court budget; maintain statistics and assignment records; and recommend improvements in the court's administrative system. The Jury Commissioner certifies a list of trial jurors for the Superior and Municipal Courts; draws, summons, and instructs jurors.

### *Clerk and Recorder* **Budget: $3,316,387**

The Clerk-Recorder is elected for a four-year term. This office serves as clerk to the Board of Supervisors and the Superior Court. It keeps court records; issues notices and processes; files real estate, and other legal documents; records births and deaths; issues marriage licenses and dog licenses; registers company names; receives applications for citizenship; registers voters and conducts elections.

A chief clerk is designated to serve as Clerk of the Board of Supervisors. Staff members of the Clerk of the Board's office attend all board meetings, prepare agendas for meetings, and maintain all official records for the board. This office also schedules all petitions for hearings before the Assessment Appeals Board.

### *Sheriff-Coroner* **Budget: $16,996,444**

The Sheriff-Coroner is elected for a four-year term. This department provides police services in unincorporated areas and where commissioned by cities, directs the county's detention facilities, serves civil processes and provides a bailiff for each Superior Court, and supplies communication services for fire districts, school districts, ambulance companies and other law enforcement agencies.

The Coroner's office conducts investigations on all violent deaths and deaths for which no attending physician can certify cause. It notifies the next of kin of the death and safeguards property on the body.

The Sheriff coordinates with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in enforcing local and state laws. The department's criminalistics laboratory provides all law enforcement agencies in the county with scientific analysis of evidence. Other programs run by the department include: burglary prevention and investigation, a marine patrol in county waterways, a litter control program, and community relations programs such as ride-along and classroom education programs and minority recruitment. The department also administers a 200-member volunteer force of reserve deputies, cadets, and a search and rescue group.

### *District Attorney-Public Administrator* — *Budget: $5,799,464*

The District Attorney is elected for a four-year term. As the chief law officer of the county, this person is responsible for prosecuting all criminals who commit crimes within the county. In order to do so, this office makes investigations of crimes, extradites known criminals to be returned for trial, gathers witnesses for trials, and researches cases.

As Public Administrator, he takes charge of all property in the county of persons who die without a will or without heirs or with heirs living outside of the state. As Public Guardian, this person is appointed by the Superior Court and given authority over the person and estates of individuals who are mentally incompetent to handle their own affairs.

The Office of the District Attorney is also responsible for handling welfare fraud, paternity, consumer fraud, major fraud, pollution, election, and conflict of interest cases. Under state law, this office collects family support payments from absent fathers who fail to provide for their minor children.

### *Public Defender* — *Budget: $2,902,151*

The Public Defender is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to provide legal defense for persons who are too poor to employ an attorney and who are charged with criminal offenses or otherwise face possible loss of liberty under California laws. Recent court decisions and laws have expanded the work of the Public Defender to include legal assistance for minors in juvenile court and for persons alleged to be mentally ill who are facing court proceedings.

### *Probation* — *Budget: $11,359,225*

The County Probation Officer is appointed by the Superior Court Juvenile Judge. This department investigates and reports to the court on sentences or special programs for persons convicted of crimes and youngsters brought before Juvenile Court. It advises the court on bail for persons awaiting trial, and supervises persons during their probationary period.

The department operates Juvenile Hall, Byron Boys Ranch, Youth Center and the Preplacement Center. It also makes recommendations to the court on cases of child abandonment and contested child custody.

### *Building Inspection* — *Budget: $2,050,669*

The director of this department is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This office enforces ordinances regulating building construction and occupancy in the unincorporated areas and on contract with some cities. It issues building permits for building plans which meet regulations. It examines work underway to see that it complies with ordinances and the terms of the permit. It also administers the housing rehabilitation portion of the Housing and Community Development Program.

### *Planning* — *Budget: $1,498,392*

The Planning Director is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This department prepares general plans for orderly county growth and regulates land use. It prepares and administers zoning and subdivision ordinances, prepares environmental impact reports, hears requests for variances, reviews site development plans, and reviews proposed public projects for compliance with the general plan. It also staffs county boards and commissions dealing with planning, and administers the Housing and Community Development Program.

### *Department of Agriculture* — *Budget: $2,051,777*

The head of this three-division department is the Agricultural Commissioner and Director of Weights and Measures. The department enforces state agriculture laws and gathers crop statistics. It inspects produce for proper packing, marking and quality, according to state standards. It inspects seeds and plants for harmful diseases, insects, and weeds. It also handles weed, rodent, and pest control.

As agent of the State Division of Weights and Measures, this office checks the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices such as scales and pumps, and checks the weight of packaged and canned goods. It also directs the animal control centers, quarantining biting animals; holding lost or at-large animals; disposing of unwanted, diseased and dead animals; and operating a low-cost animal spay clinic.

## Public Works

### *Public Works* — *Budget: $13,820,597*

The Public Works Director is appointed by the Board of Supervisors. This department plans, engineers and maintains county public works facilities, such as roads and bridges, and oversees county building projects. It is responsible for maintaining county vehicles, handling right-of-way services, and administering special service areas such as flood control, storm drainage and recreation. It also operates Buchanan Field, the county airport, and coordinates planning in the areas of transportation, water quality, and sewage services.

## Elected County Officials

***Assessor***
*Carl S. Rush*
834 Court Street
Martinez 94553

***Auditor-Controller***
*Donald Bouchet*
Finance Building
Martinez 94553

***Clerk-Recorder***
*James R. Olsson*
Courthouse
Martinez 94553

***District Attorney-Public Administrator***
*William A. O'Malley*
Courthouse
Martinez 94553

***Sheriff-Coroner***
*Richard Rainey*
Administration Bldg.
Martinez 94553

***Superintendent of Schools***
*Dr. Richard T. La Pointe*
75 Santa Barbara Road
Pleasant Hill 94523

***Treasurer-Tax Collector***
*Alfred P. Lomeli*
Finance Building
Martinez 94553

***Superior Court Judges:***
*Robert J. Cooney*
*Presiding Judge*
Courthouse
Martinez 94553
*Sam W. Hall*
*Richard E. Arnason*
*Max Wilcox, Jr.*
*Norman A. Gregg*
*Richard P. Calhoun*
*David A. Dolgin*
*Martin E. Rothenberg*
*Thomas F. McBride*
*William R. Channell*
*Coleman Fannin*
*E. Patricia Herron*

***Municipal Court Judges***

Bay Judicial District
*George D. Carroll*
*David W. Calfee*
*Bessie P. Dreibelbis*
*Thomas F. Curtin*
100 – 37th Street
Richmond 94805

Delta Judicial District
*Manuel C. Rose*
*Gerald A. Belleci*
45 Civic Avenue
Pittsburg 94565

Mt. Diablo
Judicial District
*Norman Spellberg*
*John D. Hatzenbuhler*
*Louis L. Edmunds*
*Ellen S. James*
1950 Parkside Drive
Concord 94519

Walnut Creek-Danville
Judicial District
*Michael J. Phelan*
*Joseph R. Longacre, Jr.*
*John C. Minney*
640 Ygnacio Valley Road
Walnut Creek 94598

***County Board of Education***

| | |
|---|---|
| *Daniel M. Arteaga*<br>*M. Ofelia Crofts*<br>*Primo Ruiz*<br>*William F. Dowling*<br>*Mary Ann Hruska*<br>*Charles Spears*<br>*Lucille Mauzy* | 75 Santa Barbara Road<br>Pleasant Hill 94523 |

## Appointed County Officials

| | |
|---|---|
| ***County Administrator***<br>*Melvyrn G. Wingett* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Agricultural Commissioner-Director of Weights and Measures***<br>*Kenneth E. Danielson* | 161 John Glenn Drive<br>Concord 94520 |
| ***Cooperative Extension Director (a)***<br>*J. Joseph Coony* | 960 East Street<br>Pittsburg 94565 |
| ***Director of Building Inspection***<br>*Robert E. Giese* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***County Counsel***<br>*John B. Clausen* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Director, Community Services***<br>*Bea Goff (Acting)* | 2265 Contra Costa Blvd.<br>Pleasant Hill 94523 |
| ***Director, Office of Emergency Services (c)***<br>*Will H. Perry* | 50 Glacier Drive<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Deputy Public Works Director, Flood Control (b)***<br>*Joseph E. Taylor* | 225 Glacier Drive<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Health Officer (d)***<br>*Orlyn Wood, M.D.* | 1111 Ward Street<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Librarian***<br>*Clarence R. Walters* | 1750 Oak Park Blvd.<br>Pleasant Hill 94523 |
| ***Executive Officer, Local Agency Formation Commission***<br>*Joseph S. Connery* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Director, Manpower Programs***<br>*Judy Ann Miller* | 2401 D Stanwell Drive<br>Concord 94520 |
| ***Medical Director (d)***<br>*Louis F. Girtman, M.D. (Acting)* | County Hospital<br>2500 Alhambra Ave.<br>Martinez 94553 |

# COUNTY OFFICIALS

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Director of Personnel (c)***<br>*Charles J. Leonard* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Director of Planning***<br>*Anthony A. Dehaesus* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Probation Officer***<br>*Gerald S. Buck* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Public Defender***<br>*Patrick R. Murphy* | 610 Court Street<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Public Information Officer***<br>*Mary H. Dunten* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Public Works Director***<br>*Vernon L. Cline* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Manager, Purchasing Operations (e)***<br>*William A. Schmidt* | 630 Court Street<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Superior Court Adminstrator-Jury Commissioner***<br>*Russell D. Cramer* | Courthouse<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Veterans' Service Officer***<br>*Elmer R. Rieger* | 930 Ward Street<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Director, Human Resources Agency***<br>*Claude L. Van Marter* | Administration Bldg.<br>Martinez 94553 |
| ***Social Service Director***<br>*Robert E. Jornlin* | 2401 Stanwell Drive<br>Concord 94520 |

(a) U.C. Cooperative Extension
(b) A division of the Public Works Department
(c) A division of the Office of the County Administrator
(d) A division of the Human Resources Agency
(e) A division of the Auditor-Controller's Office

## Major Boards and Commissions

| | *Meetings Held* |
|---|---|
| ***Council on Aging***<br>671-4233 | 9:30 a.m. third Wednesday<br>2401 Stanwell Dr., Concord |
| ***Airport Land Use Commission***<br>372-2035 | 7:30 p.m. fourth Wednesday<br>County Administration Bldg. |
| ***Alcoholism Advisory Board***<br>372-4395 | 3 p.m. fourth Wednesday<br>622 Contra Costa Blvd.<br>Pleasant Hill |
| ***Assessment Appeals Board***<br>372-2374 | Generally 9 a.m. Wednesday<br>County Administration Bldg. |
| ***Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Advisory Board***<br>372-2685 | 7:30 p.m. on a Thursday<br>alternate months,<br>various locations |
| ***Civil Service Commission***<br>372-4064 | 7:30 p.m. second and fourth<br>Tuesdays, 500 Court St.<br>Martinez |
| ***Housing and Community Development Advisory Committee***<br>372-2035 | 7:30 p.m. first Wednesday<br>3020 Grant St., Concord |
| ***Criminal Justice Agency Planning Board***<br>685-5335 | 8 a.m. second Thursday<br>622 Contra Costa Blvd.,<br>Pleasant Hill |
| ***Drug Abuse Board***<br>372-4395 | 7:30 p.m. third Tuesday<br>622 Contra Costa Blvd.,<br>Pleasant Hill |
| ***Board of Education***<br>944-3432 | 7:30 p.m. generally second<br>and fourth Wednesday,<br>75 Santa Barbara Rd.,<br>Pleasant Hill |
| ***Emergency Medical Care Committee***<br>372-2963 | 4 p.m. third Wednesday<br>John Muir Hospital<br>Walnut Creek |
| ***Employees' Retirement Board***<br>372-4137 | 8:30 a.m. second Tuesday<br>1111 Pine St., Martinez |
| ***Family and Children's Services Advisory Board***<br>671-4202 | 12 noon second Tuesday<br>2401 Stanwell Dr., Concord |
| ***Housing Authority Commission***<br>228-5330 | 5:30 p.m. fourth Wednesday<br>3133 Estudillo St., Martinez |

# BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Human Services Advisory Commission***<br>372-2919 | 7:30 p.m. generally second Wednesday at George Gordon Education Center and fourth Wednesday at various times and locations |
| ***Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commissions***<br>372-2733 | 9:30 a.m. third Monday various locations |
| ***Local Agency Formation Commission***<br>372-4090 | 1 p.m. first Wednesday County Administration Bldg. |
| ***Manpower Advisory Council***<br>671-4239 | 1:30 p.m. third Monday various locations |
| ***Mental Health Advisory Board***<br>372-4395 | 4:30 p.m. second Tuesday County Hospital conference room, Martinez |
| ***Planning Commission***<br>372-2026 | 7:30 p.m. most Tuesdays County Administration Bldg. |
| ***Recreation and Natural Resources Commission***<br>372-2035 | 8 p.m. first Monday (quarterly) County Administration Bldg. |

## Major County Events of 1977-78

### *July*

Board of Supervisors Internal Operations Committee investigates cost of food operations in County facilities.

Report shows that the County's nurse practitioner program is saving money in physicians' salaries, despite an increase in patients served.

County starts housing rehabilitation program with low and no-interest loans for low and moderate-income families living in areas subject to blight.

The County's Prepaid Health Plan is praised by HEW Undersecretary Hale Champion as an example of preventive health care that cuts tax dollars.

### *August*

Seven-member Human Services Advisory Commission is appointed by the Board.

Office of Emergency Services Director reports that cities potentially affected by dam failure in the county have adopted the County's dam failure evacuation plan.

Board adopts $250.5 million budget for fiscal year 1977-78, bringing a property tax rate cut of 22 cents.

### *September*

California Nurses Assn. members end two-week strike with settlement on a 7.5% pay increase (6.25% annualized).

Auditor-Controller Donald Funk announces he'll retire, effective October 15. Board announces that Donald Bouchet will assume acting auditor-controller duties.

Board approves a new joint exercise of powers agreement with Pinole and Hercules to form the Western Contra Costa County Transit Authority, which will run a bus system, including a line to the Crockett-Rodeo area.

Public Works Department reports the County has saved 10% to 30% in energy conservation in four years.

County Administrator Arthur Will reports that the County has almost doubled the money it received in federal grants during the past year. By aggressively pursuing sources of financing other than the property tax, the County upped its share of federal funding for special programs from $16.3 million to $30.8 million.

### *October*

Board agrees to enroll Medicare participants in the County's Prepaid Health Plan, starting in January.

HEW approves County's application for a teenage service clinic which will offer family planning, VD diagnosis, pregnancy testing, counselling and health education.

### *November*

Board members ask a legislative committee to drop the Peripheral Canal from the proposed state water project.

County's boating safety program is expanded with two deputy sheriffs to man a patrol boat provided by the state.

A report on the County's water conservation program reveals "drastic" cuts in grounds watering and a stop to washing of county buildings and vehicles.

### *December*

County *Profile* reports that employment is up and economy improving in the county, but home prices are rising and financial pressures on the County budget should increase as the demand for and cost of providing public services continues to increase faster than revenues.

Board approves contracts to repair the homes of elderly persons, especially those living on limited means.

Board notifies Governor Brown of the "immediate local problem" of overcrowded county mental health facilities.

Board welcomes new manager of airports, Donald C. Flynn, former Port of Oakland airport planning director.

Federally-funded study probes ways to consolidate and coordinate city and county police services.

KVHS, Clayton Valley High School radio station, granted permission by the Board to broadcast its meetings.

Gerald S. Buck, Orange County probation official, is named by the Superior Court Judges as the County's new Probation Officer.

### *January*

Board agrees to use about $370,000 in public and private foundation money to start basic structural work on the historic John Marsh Home, while voting to endorse legislation to have the state take over the project.

Board adopts a county "bedroom tax" ordinance requiring developers to pay school districts a fee to help cover costs of rising school enrollments.

County reports the $1.9 million it received in "anti-recession fiscal assistance" during 1977 was used to maintain staffing of the Social Service Department.

Board agrees to put money from sale of the Weimar Medical Center into a trust fund for a possible campsite.

County agrees to continue funding its share of the city-county Narcotics Strike Force to stop flow of drugs.

County's central library offers art reproductions to be checked out by library card holders.

Board approves program to allow persons arrested for drunk driving to choose a treatment program instead of losing their driving licenses.

Following a public hearing, Board votes not to separate the offices of sheriff and coroner.

### *February*

County signs $250,000 federal contract for a "career criminal prosecution program" to zero in on cases of repeat offenders accused of felonies.

Board establishes a policy that the County has no intention of building new hospital facilities but will move toward sharing facilities with other area hospitals.

County contracts with Children's Home Society to operate two crisis receiving homes for youngsters who are runaways or out of parental control, allowing the County to close its crisis resolution center in Juvenile Hall.

Board asks to have the state take over the County's federal grant to study the incidences of cancer, to expand the study to cover the nine-county Bay Area.

Board votes financial help for the Community Food Coalition, which supplies food pantries for needy persons.

County contracts with the League of Women Voters to distribute and service postcard registration displays.

### *March*

Board agrees to open the County's prepaid health plan to senior citizens.

Board approves use of $143,000 to prevent overcrowding at the County Hospital's mental health wards and to reduce the number of "walkaways" from the hospital.

The County Water Agency states opposition to any valley drain to the waters of the Delta-Suisun Bay until it can be shown that the salts and nutrients in the drainage don't harm the Bay-Delta estuarine system.

Sheriff and Board members dedicate the County's new minimum security center for sentenced women inmates, completing a complex which federal officials call a model for the rest of the country.

County Planning Department offers maps identifying the county's rare and endangered wildlife and plants.

The Superior Court judges select Russell D. Cramer to succeed retiring Wilfred O'Neill as the County's superior court administrator and jury commissioner.

### *April*

Board agrees to continue financing three community rape crisis centers which offer counseling and other assistance to rape victims and their families.

State medical-legal review team is called in by County to study operation of the County's mental health division, following alleged rape in a mental health ward.

As the County Water Agency, Board approves position paper stating that the state's draft water quality control plan for the Delta and Suisun Marsh will not provide enough protection for the Bay and Delta.

Board sets guidelines for the 1978-79 County budget preparations, with the goal of keeping the property tax levy from increasing more than the percentage increase in the gross national product (GNP) deflator.

Board objects to proposal by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to relax water quality standards in the western Delta and turn Jersey and Sherman islands into wetlands.

Board supports legislation to require BART to provide service to the eastern county before extending service outside the original boundary lines of the district.

Foreseeing no possible resolution to the impasse between the county and the firefighters union, the Board adopts a pay package for the 370 firefighters, granting them an 8.69% raise in salary and fringe benefits.

### *May*

Federal Labor Department gives County award for "superior performance in serving the national effort" in attaining 101% of its goal in creating 916 public service jobs.

Unforeseen developments—lack of competitive bidding, inflation, and new safety and conservation standards—up the cost of the new jail/courts complex by 13%, $2.57 million higher than the $20 million projected cost.

Dr. Paul O'Rourke, health consultant, presents a study on administration of the County's health care services, urging disbandment of the Human Resources Agency and setup of a consolidated Department of Health Services.

Board sets up a blue-ribbon citizens commission to examine the structure and operations of county government to see if it can be streamlined and any duplications eliminated.

County announces improvements made in operation of the County Hospital's J Ward for critically ill mental patients.

Five County programs are chosen for National Association of Counties 1978 Achievement Awards: the Prepaid Health Plan, Wilderness Experience, Subsidized Family Day Care Program, Contracts and Grants Unit, and Computerized Personnel System.

Board adopts a program to reduce noise around Buchanan Field.

### *June*

Tom Powers of Richmond is elected as County Supervisor for the First Supervisorial District.

Richard La Pointe of Concord is elected County Superintendent of Schools; and William O'Malley and James Olsson are re-elected as District Attorney and Clerk-Recorder.

Board members meet daily in emergency meetings on cutbacks necessitated by passage of Proposition 13. They talk about priorities for possible state assistance and about increasing fees for services.

Major county employers are asked for assistance in placing government workers expected to lose their jobs in the aftermath of the passage of Proposition 13.

Treasurer-Tax Collector Edward W. Leal resigns, effective July 1, and Alfred Lomeli, who won election June 6, is appointed to assume his position. Acting Auditor-Controller Donald Bouchet is also appointed to take over that post, which he gained in the election.

County Administrator Arthur Will announces he will resign, effective November, to enter private business.

Board approves a moratorium on expenditures such as employee training, overnight travel to meetings and conferences, and purchase of capital equipment, plus a continued freeze on appointments to vacant positions.

Board members decide on a 3-2 vote to lend their support to the Equal Rights Amendment by banning travel by County employees to states that have not ratified the ERA.

1,500 employees receive layoff warning notices, but formal layoff notices are postponed until the County finds how much money it will receive from the state.

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County County Administrator.

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Martinez, CA 94553

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BERKELEY, CA 94720